

if you are threatened with a suit, either verbally or by letter, communicate at once—*within twenty-four hours*—with the Secretary of the State Society, so that the matter can be taken up immediately by our attorney; this will, in very many cases, be the end of the matter. If you are threatened by letter, send the letter to the secretary together with a full account of the case, name, date, diagnosis, treatment, names of witnesses, nurses, consultants, etc. If you are served with a summons in a suit, this document, or an exact copy of it, must be sent *within twenty-four hours*, to the Secretary of the State Society, who will at once place the case in the hands of our attorney; all details must be sent at the same time, so that the attorney may be in possession of all the facts in the case. You will then be sent a blank to fill out and sign. This will authorize the Society to defend the action, through its attorney, and you will agree not to compromise or settle the suit without the consent of the Society, through its attorney. No judgments will be paid by the Society, but all costs of defending the suit will be paid by the Society. You will agree not to obligate the Society in any manner to the payment of any sums whatever. In other words, you turn the defense over to the Society, which will pay all the costs of action, and agree not to meddle. Is not that sufficiently simple—and safe?

All this medical defense work and the funds to pay for it will be in the hands of a special committee of the Council. They will stand back of the attorney, and of course back of them is the whole Council and the State Society.

Each county medical society will be asked to appoint, as soon as may be, a committee of three on medical defense. It will be the duty of this committee, when a member of the Society is sued or threatened with suit, to investigate the case and make a full report of the exact facts. These suits are dependent upon matters of fact and not matters of law, and so it is essential that all the facts be in our possession at the earliest possible moment. When a local attorney is required to attend to an action in some distant county, he will be chosen in some satisfactory way to be determined; probably by the joint action of the defendant, the county society or its committee, and the attorney for the State Society. The main idea, however, is to get quick action; to let people know that we are not to be bluffed or blackmailed; to protect ourselves and our members from unjust and iniquitous attacks, and to do it as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. Now a word as to what *not* to do. Do not wait till a suit is actually filed against you, if you have reason to believe that it is coming; let the Secretary know about it at once, so that the attorney can take it up and perhaps prevent a suit. If a suit is filed, do not think about it for a few days and then write; write at once and send the papers and the facts to the Secretary. Do not employ a lawyer until the Secretary has been communicated with, unless you wish to defend the case yourself and not have the Society do it.

Judging from the number of copies that have been sent to the JOURNAL office, every physician in the state must have received the very remarkable circular letter sent out by the "Union College of Osteopathy," apparently located at Wheeling, W. Va. The offer contained in the circular is supposed to be very flattering; you are to be taught osteopathy by mail at the modest cost of \$60.00 for the course, including the beautiful diploma. It is a special course for physicians who are urged not to lose all their patients to osteopathic practitioners, but to take this taught-by-mail bunch of canned information and thus become the real thing. It is unfortunate that this should come up at the present time, when the osteopathic standards are being raised in this state and when a fairly good number of applicants to practice osteopathy are passing our state board examinations and thus showing that they are really qualified; it will only tend to excite antagonism that was on the decline. It is exactly the sort of thing that certain medical diploma mills were doing a decade or two ago: turning out unlimited numbers of degrees, if the money was forthcoming. It was the examining board that put the medical diploma mill out of business; it will be the examining board that will put the osteopathic diploma mill out of business. That these institutions will exist until the various states require all applicants to practice any sort of healing art to pass the same examination, goes without saying. The independent examining board in every sort of cult merely permits these abuses. The one board law and the same examination for all, puts an immediate stop to this particular game of fraud.

The subject of reciprocity between the states in the matter of license to practice medicine, is discussed most sanely by Dr. Jno. C. King, of Banning, in a recent issue of the *Southern California Practitioner*. Dr. King is certainly entitled to be heard upon this question, as he served for some years on the State Board of Medical Examiners and made a most careful study of the law and its operation. At the time that Dr. King was a member of the board, and its president, there was a clause in the law permitting the board to reciprocate; but the board never put the clause into operation. He most clearly points out that as medical education advances, the cry for reciprocity becomes more faint and its operation is regarded with less favor. Twenty-four states are united in barring reciprocity, either actually or practically, and several others have such intricate machinery as to make it nearly a dead letter. "In many states the law, wisely I think, discriminates against the old practitioner." Dr. King's point is that physicians who do not keep up their reading and their study should be prevented from treating the sick. He cites the well-known procedure of the government in dealing with its Army and Navy surgeons; at each stage of their official life they are subjected to examination; it is

LICENSE RECIPROCITY.

not assumed that they have kept up; the fact is determined, before promotion, by a rigid examination. The suggestion that the same course be pursued with regard to physicians generally—that they be examined at intervals of years and their license be time-limited and contingent upon their passing such an examination, is, theoretically, most excellent; but we are afraid that it will find but little favor amongst physicians the country over.

The attempt to get physicians financially interested in concerns, either good, bad or indifferent, which manufacture the things that physicians use, is as old as the hills. The argument is always the same. In the present

THE SAME PITFALL.

case we quote it from a letter addressed to a member of the Society by a gentleman who deals in "investments," and in this instance is trying to unload an unknown number of shares of stock in the "Olivoint Chemical Company, with office and laboratory in San Francisco." It may be said in passing that an inquiry as to advertising in the *STATE JOURNAL* the products of this company came to us some time ago and the applicant was advised to submit his preparations to the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry; after which we could discuss the matter. So far as we are aware, the preparations have not yet been submitted to the Council for investigation. The letter says, among other interesting things:

"An opportunity is offered you to obtain an interest now in a growing concern whose products rank with the best. Instead of making money for other people, you can become a stockholder, and every time you write a prescription you help build up the company, add to the value of your stock and increase your yearly dividend."

And there you are. Just think of your profits; don't waste any time thinking about the patient or the unnecessary prescriptions you will write and the patient will have to pay for; just think of your profits and the rapidly growing value of your stock. That's the main idea; keep it well in mind; think of the money. That there must be a good many physicians who will go into these things is evidenced by the number of them that come along. It is charitable to believe that those who do so invest do not see the matter in its proper light; do not realize that they are being seduced into a sort of petty graft that puts a few dollars into their pockets, very many dollars into some other fellow's pocket, and takes a lot of money out of the patient. It is only human nature to believe that the man interested in such a concern will order the purchase of its products on every possible occasion, whether they are strictly necessary or not; it is to his financial advantage to do so, and he will do it in spite of his better inclinations and without thinking of what he is really doing. Indeed, that very fact is emphasized in the letter quoted and that phase of human nature is just exactly what these people all bank on to make added

profits for themselves. It is not nice to have to admit that physicians will do these things, but there are the facts.

A most notable advance has recently been made in the work of giving proper medical supervision to school children. The subject has been commented upon and commended a number of times in the *JOURNAL*, and the good work that has been done by Dr. Hoag in Pasadena has attracted no little attention. It is a pleasure to note that his usefulness is to be greatly extended, but Pasadena will be the loser by his taking away. Dr. N. K. Foster, so long the efficient Secretary of the State Board of Health, has been appointed Medical Director of the Oakland schools, and Dr. Hoag has been appointed Director of Hygiene and Medical Supervisor of the Berkeley schools, with a lectureship in the University on School Hygiene. Thus it is seen that these two most excellent men are to work together in the sister cities; that their efforts will be in common, and will bring to Oakland and to Berkeley very decided benefits, can not be doubted.

Most of our communities are strangely blind to one of the most important and vital questions that presents itself to a growing community—getting its children started right in the world. If the children do not get a fair and a right start, how can they be blamed for going all wrong later in life? How many a child has been driven into crime because of some physical defect, unnoticed in the years of his development, but always acting as a drag upon his proper mental and physical growth? The fairly good salaries which are to be paid these two gentlemen for their work in the schools will be returned many fold to the cities employing them. A medical supervisor of school children is as good as a whole juvenile court system, when it comes to preventing children from going astray. Our hearty congratulations are extended to the cities of Oakland and Berkeley; that the work which Dr. Foster and Dr. Hoag are to do will be well done, needs no saying.

Just at the present time there are a half-dozen or more good locations open for the right men;

SOME OPEN LOCATIONS. some of these are practices for sale and some are not. In any case, the amount of money involved is not large and covers

only the material outfit. One is a particularly fine chance for a young, sober, industrious and well prepared physician to step right in with an older practitioner and take up a very fine practice; but it must be a well equipped man who is capable of doing ordinary laboratory work. If you know of some physician who is not located or who is about to make a change, just drop a line to the *JOURNAL* office, or to the Secretary, and you will be put in communication with some one or more of the possible chances. Let us know what part of the state you prefer, for these openings are scattered from North to South.